



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 573

January Session, 2013

House Bill No. 6334

House of Representatives, April 18, 2013

The Committee on Planning and Development reported through REP. ROJAS of the 9th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT MANDATING THE REGIONALIZATION OF CERTAIN PUBLIC SAFETY EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATIONS CENTERS AND A STUDY OF CONSOLIDATION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 28-24 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2013*):

3 (a) There is established an Office of State-Wide Emergency
4 Telecommunications which shall be within the Department of
5 Emergency Services and Public Protection. The Office of State-Wide
6 Emergency Telecommunications shall be responsible for developing
7 and maintaining a state-wide emergency service telecommunications
8 policy. In connection with said policy, the office shall:

9 (1) Develop a state-wide emergency service telecommunications
10 plan specifying emergency police, fire and medical service
11 telecommunications systems needed to provide coordinated
12 emergency service telecommunications to all state residents, including

13 the physically disabled;

14 (2) Pursuant to the recommendations of the task force established by
15 public act 95-318 to study enhanced 9-1-1 telecommunications services,
16 and in accordance with regulations adopted by the Commissioner of
17 Emergency Services and Public Protection pursuant to subsection (b)
18 of this section, develop and administer, by July 1, 1997, an enhanced
19 emergency 9-1-1 program, which shall provide for: (A) The
20 replacement of existing 9-1-1 terminal equipment for each public safety
21 answering point, provided, on or after July 1, 2019, if such answering
22 point is located in a municipality with a population of forty thousand
23 or less, such answering point is part of a regional public safety
24 emergency telecommunications center; (B) the subsidization of
25 regional public safety emergency telecommunications centers, with
26 enhanced subsidization for municipalities with a population in excess
27 of forty thousand; (C) the establishment of a transition grant program
28 to encourage regionalization of public safety telecommunications
29 centers; and (D) the establishment of a regional emergency
30 telecommunications service credit in order to support regional
31 dispatch services;

32 (3) Provide technical telecommunications assistance to state and
33 local police, fire and emergency medical service agencies;

34 (4) Provide frequency coordination for such agencies;

35 (5) Coordinate and assist in state-wide planning for 9-1-1 and E 9-1-
36 1 systems;

37 (6) Review and make recommendations concerning proposed
38 legislation affecting emergency service telecommunications;

39 (7) Review and make recommendations to the General Assembly
40 concerning emergency service telecommunications funding; and

41 (8) On or before January first of each year, prepare the annual
42 budget for the use of funds from the Enhanced 9-1-1
43 Telecommunications Fund and submit such budget to the Secretary of

44 the Office of Policy and Management for the secretary's review and
45 approval. On or before January fifteenth of each year, said secretary
46 shall submit a report concerning the proposed use of such funds to the
47 joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance
48 of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies,
49 finance, revenue and bonding, and public safety in accordance with
50 the provisions of section 11-4a.

51 (b) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection
52 shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, establishing
53 eligibility standards for state financial assistance to local or regional
54 police, fire and emergency medical service agencies providing
55 emergency service telecommunications. Not later than April 1, 1997,
56 the commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter
57 54, in order to carry out the provisions of subdivision (2) of subsection
58 (a) of this section.

59 (c) Within a time period determined by the commissioner to ensure
60 the availability of funds for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1997, to the
61 regional public safety emergency telecommunications centers within
62 the state, and not later than April first of each year thereafter, the
63 commissioner shall determine the amount of funding needed for the
64 development and administration of the enhanced emergency 9-1-1
65 program. The commissioner shall specify the expenses associated with
66 (1) the purchase, installation and maintenance of new public safety
67 answering point terminal equipment, (2) the implementation of the
68 subsidy program, as described in subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of
69 this section, (3) the implementation of the transition grant program,
70 described in subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section, (4) the
71 implementation of the regional emergency telecommunications service
72 credit, as described in subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section,
73 provided, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001, and each fiscal year
74 thereafter, such credit for coordinated medical emergency direction
75 services as provided in regulations adopted under this section shall be
76 based upon the factor of thirty cents per capita and shall not be
77 reduced each year, (5) the training of personnel, as necessary, (6)

78 recurring expenses and future capital costs associated with the
79 telecommunications network used to provide emergency 9-1-1 service
80 and the public safety services data networks, (7) for the fiscal year
81 ending June 30, 2001, and each fiscal year thereafter, the collection,
82 maintenance and reporting of emergency medical services data, as
83 required under subparagraph (A) of subdivision (8) of section 19a-177,
84 provided the amount of expenses specified under this subdivision
85 shall not exceed two hundred fifty thousand dollars in any fiscal year,
86 (8) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001, and each fiscal year
87 thereafter, the initial training of emergency medical dispatch
88 personnel, the provision of an emergency medical dispatch priority
89 reference card set and emergency medical dispatch training and
90 continuing education pursuant to subdivisions (3) and (4) of
91 subsection (g) of section 28-25b, (9) the administration of the enhanced
92 emergency 9-1-1 program by the Office of State-Wide Emergency
93 Telecommunications, as the commissioner determines to be reasonably
94 necessary, and (10) the implementation and maintenance of the public
95 safety data network established pursuant to section 29-1j. The
96 commissioner shall communicate the commissioner's findings to the
97 Public Utilities Regulatory Authority not later than April first of each
98 year.

99 (d) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, and each fiscal year
100 thereafter, any municipality with a population of forty thousand or
101 less that has not joined with two or more municipalities to form a
102 regional emergency telecommunications center shall not be eligible to
103 receive any funds pursuant to this section.

104 ~~[(d)]~~ (e) The office may apply for, receive and distribute any federal
105 funds available for emergency service telecommunications. The office
106 shall deposit such federal funds in the Enhanced 9-1-1
107 Telecommunications Fund established by section 28-30a, as amended
108 by this act.

109 ~~[(e)]~~ (f) The office shall work in cooperation with the Public Utilities
110 Regulatory Authority to carry out the purposes of this section.

111 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 28-30a of the general statutes is
112 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
113 *October 1, 2013*):

114 (a) There is established a fund to be known as the "Enhanced 9-1-1
115 Telecommunications Fund". The fund shall contain any moneys
116 required by law to be deposited in the fund, including, but not limited
117 to, any federal funds collected pursuant to subsection [(d)] (e) of
118 section 28-24, as amended by this act, and fees assessed against
119 subscribers of local telephone service, subscribers of commercial
120 mobile radio services pursuant to section 16-256g and revenues from
121 the prepaid wireless E 9-1-1 fee imposed pursuant to section 28-30e.
122 The Enhanced 9-1-1 Telecommunications Fund shall be held separate
123 and apart from all other moneys, funds and accounts. Interest derived
124 from the investment of the fund shall be credited to the assets of the
125 fund. Any balance remaining in the fund at the end of any fiscal year
126 shall be carried forward in the fund for the fiscal year next succeeding.

127 Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Office of State-Wide Emergency
128 Telecommunications shall conduct a study to determine a range of
129 feasible arrangements of public safety answering points, including, but
130 not limited to: (1) What number of answering points would achieve a
131 balance between cost-effectiveness, operational efficiency and efficient
132 use of new and existing resources; (2) which answering points could be
133 consolidated, after considering cost, efficiencies, and natural or
134 selected operational groupings; (3) what further consolidation of
135 police, fire and emergency medical dispatching services and any
136 related services is recommended; and (4) any and all costs associated
137 with all aspects of and various options for consolidation, including
138 municipal and state costs. Such study shall be paid for out of the
139 Enhanced 9-1-1 Telecommunications Fund.

140 (b) The Office of State-Wide Emergency Telecommunications shall,
141 not later than July 1, 2017, submit a report containing the findings of
142 said study to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly
143 having cognizance of matters relating to municipalities and public

144 safety, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general
145 statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2013</i>	28-24
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2013</i>	28-30a(a)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section

PD *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 14 \$	FY 15 \$
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection	GF - Cost	None	500,000

Municipal Impact: See Below

Explanation

The bill requires the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) to conduct a study on the arrangement of public safety answering points (PSAPs) in Connecticut and also limits the eligibility of certain PSAPs to receive state financial assistance beginning in FY 19.

DESPP is anticipated to incur costs of approximately \$500,000 to conduct a study of PSAP arrangements in the state. DESPP recently contracted out a high-level study of PSAPs and the potential to reduce the total number of PSAPs; this study cost approximately \$226,000 to perform. Under the bill the study would analyze individual PSAPs in greater detail requiring significantly more research and analysis.

To the extent that certain PSAPs may become ineligible for state financial assistance in FY 19, certain municipalities may experience a loss of funding from DESPP's Enhanced 9-1-1 Telecommunications fund. This change in financial assistance is dependent, in part, on the outcome of the study that DESPP will conduct and municipal decisions regarding PSAP regionalization.

The Out Years

The fiscal impact identified above is for DESPP's study of PSAP arrangements and is anticipated to be a one-time cost with no fiscal impact in the out-years. Municipal impact, if any, will not occur until FY 19, as described above.

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 6334****AN ACT MANDATING THE REGIONALIZATION OF CERTAIN PUBLIC SAFETY EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATIONS CENTERS AND A STUDY OF CONSOLIDATION.****SUMMARY:**

This bill:

1. beginning in FY 2019, makes municipalities with 40,000 or fewer people ineligible for enhanced 9-1-1 (E 9-1-1) funding if they have not joined with two or more municipalities to form a regional public safety answering point (PSAP) and
2. requires the Office of State-wide Emergency Telecommunications (OSET), which administers the state's E 9-1-1 program, to use money in the E 9-1-1 Telecommunications Fund to study PSAP regionalization issues and submit its findings to the Planning and Development and Public Safety and Security committees by July 1, 2017.

PSAPs are facilities that receive 9-1-1 calls and dispatch emergency response services (e.g., fire and police) or transfer the calls to other public safety agencies.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2013, except for the OSET study, which is effective upon passage.

E 9-1-1 SYSTEM FUNDING***OSET Funding to Towns***

Currently, OSET pays for all of the towns' 9-1-1 equipment and reimburses them at 10 cents per capita for costs incurred to train and certify telecommunicators (people who take 9-1-1 calls and dispatch emergency services). It also offers financial incentives to encourage

towns to (1) establish multi-jurisdiction PSAPs and (2) consolidate PSAP operations by eliminating secondary answering points (facilities to which PSAPs transfer 9-1-1 calls instead of dispatching emergency services or transferring the calls to another public safety agency). OSET provides:

1. annual subsidies to towns with PSAPs that receive and process 9-1-1 calls for three or more towns (regional emergency telecommunication centers) and towns with PSAPs that receive and process 9-1-1 calls for two towns (multi-town PSAPs);
2. one-time, transition funding to help towns offset the cost of forming regional or multi-town PSAPs;
3. (a) annual subsidies to towns with more than 40,000 residents and (b) reduced subsidies for each year that they continue to use a secondary answering point; and
4. service credits to encourage dispatch centers to regionalize (CGS §§ 28-24 *et seq.* & Conn. Agencies Regs. §§ 28-24-1 *et seq.*).

Beginning in FY 2019, the bill eliminates funding to all municipalities with 40,000 or fewer people that have not joined with two or more municipalities to form a regional PSAP. It also specifically prohibits OSET, on or after July 1, 2019, from paying to replace existing 9-1-1 equipment for any PSAP that is not part of a regional PSAP (see BACKGROUND).

OSET STUDY

The bill requires OSET to conduct a study to determine a range of feasible arrangements of PSAPs. The study must include:

1. the number of answering points that would achieve a balance between cost-effectiveness, operational efficiency, and efficient use of new and existing resources;
2. which answering points could be consolidated, after considering cost, efficiencies, and natural or selected operational

groupings;

3. what further consolidation of fire, police, emergency medical services and related services is recommended; and
4. all costs associated with all aspects of, and various options for, consolidation, including state and municipal costs.

BACKGROUND

E 9-1-1 System

Currently, there are (1) seven regional PSAPs serving 73 member towns, (2) nine multi-town PSAPs, and (3) 82 stand-alone PSAPs. Among the stand-alone PSAPs, (1) 22 towns receive subsidies based on the 40,000 resident population threshold, with four receiving reduced funding because they operate secondary answering points and (2) 60 towns receive no subsidies because they operate stand-alone PSAPs and do not qualify for the population-based subsidy.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 17 Nay 2 (04/01/2013)